

THE REHEARSAL.

1. The *Review* values *Himself* upon his *Moderation* in the *Story* of *Oakhampton*.
2. His *Relation* of it.
3. Told with *Assurance*, and Drefs'd up with all *Appearance* of *Truth*.
4. My *Gentle* Treatment of him on this *Occasion*. With the *Use* he has made of it.
5. His *Recantation*.
6. Some *Considerations* upon it.
7. He owns that he had his *Information* directly from the *Prosecutors*.

SATURDAY, October 26. 1706.

Country-man. YOU told me last time, Master, you had a *Story* about *Oakhampton* to tell me, which wou'd Expose the *Malice* and *Contrivance* of the *Whiggs* to a great Degree. Pray let us have it, it may be of *Use*, besides the *Vindication* of *Injur'd* Men.

(1.) *Rehearsal*. I must tell you the *Charge*, before I give you the *Defence*. The *Review* of last *February* 21. Vol. 3. N. 23. Spends his *Miscellanea* upon this *Story* of *Oakhampton*. This was the first notice the *World* had of it. And he *Prefaces* it with *Magnifying* his own *Moderation*. He says, *I Value my self upon my Moderation*. The *Proof* of which he gives in two *Particulars*. One was, That he had not told this *Story* before. Tho' he was the first *Publisher* of it. The other *Proof* is, That he has *Conceald* many more *Stories* against the *Clergy* and *High-Church*. Of Which (says he) *I have Collected about Six and Twenty Hundred Examples, in which their Conduct wou'd suffer Indelible Scandal*.

Among all these, this of *Oakhampton* is *Pitch'd* upon to be told; as the most *Notorious*, and best to be *Prov'd*. And he tells it thus,

(2.) "That one *Quint*, a *Labouring* and very *Honest* *Usefull* Man, was *Servant* to a certain *Trades-Man* in the *Town*, who had a *Right* in the *Burrough* to *Vote* for *Burgeses* at the last *Election*. This *Trades-Man* being known not to be of the side of *Sr. S—L*, who stood *Candidate* for the *Town*, a *Captain* of the *Army* was found out, who Came to the *Town* to raise *Soldiers*, *Mr. Tendal* the *Mayor* of the *Town*, grants a *Warrant* to take up this *Quint*, and *List* him according to *Act* of *Parliament*; but the *Act* requiring 3 *Justices* of *Peace* shou'd sign the *Warrant*, it was *Carry'd* to a *Neighbouring Justice* to have his hand to it, who Examining the circumstances *refus'd* to *Sign*; whereupon the *Captain* very *honestly* let the poor Man go.—

"But a little before the *Election*, it being found *Necessary* to take up this Man, in Order as is *Suppos'd* to *Influence* his *Master*, he was taken up a second time by *Mr. Tendal* the *Mayor's* *Warrant*; And no *Justices* being to be found, who wou'd sign such an *Illegal* *Warrant*, rather than the *Servise* of the *CHURCH* shou'd be neglected, or that all possible *Diligence* shou'd not be us'd to keep a *Whigg*, tho' a good *Church-Man* too, out of the *House*, two of the *Inferiour Clergy* were found, who *Personating Justices* of the *Peace*, sign'd the *Warrant*, and by this *High-Church Forgery*, the poor man was hurry'd away into the *Army*, where he has been ever since, till he was a few Days ago found out and deliver'd.

"And to save *Mr. Rehearsal* the *Trouble* of Enquiring for the *Names* of these *Gentlemen*, I tell him, they were No body else but *Mr. Hussy*. *Minister* of *Oakhampton* in *Devonshire*, and *Mr. Roberts* his *Neighbour*. And if he pleases to make farther Enquiry into the *Truth* of *Fact*, he may come at it two ways,

"1st. By any *Member* of *Parliament*, who was at the *Committee* of *Elections*, where this *Matter* was brought more particularly to *Light*, and at large *Detected*.

"2dly. By the *Issue* of an *Action* at *Law* now *Depending* against the two *Parsons* for the *Fact*, which I doubt will End both in their *Damage* and *Disgrace*.

(3.) Thus the *Review*. And here is a *Story* told with all the *Circumstances* of *Truth* and *Assurance*. And *Vouchers* Appeal'd to. And yet after all it is a *Notorious Falshood*. And the *Contrivance* and *Combination* lay wholly among the *Whigg-Party*, And these *Clergy-Men* thus *Accus'd*, were *Acquitted* by the *Queens-Bench*, their *Innocence* fully *Appearing*.

(4.) Yet I did not *Insult* upon this, but Desir'd the *Review* to *Recollect* himself, and *Examin* his *Vouchers*, and to *Correct* what he found amiss in the *Relation* of this *Fact*.

Fact given to him. Judging it more Decent to let a Man *Retract* his own *Errors*, than to *Expose* him for them. As being the *Softer* way, and more agreeable to the *Bargain* I had lately made with him, to *Treat* one another *Civilly*, and to *Refrain Ill Words*, and *Calling of Names*.

Keeping within all which *Rules*, I think I may *Complain*, That he has not made the due use of that *Advantage* and *Privilege* I gave him, to *Correct* his own *Mistakes* himself; Whereby he had *Liberty* to have come off with all the *Easiness* he cou'd desire, and what *Excuses* he thought fit for his being *Impos'd* upon by his *Informers*. But still he ought to have been *Just* to the *Truth*, and rather have *Ow'd* it the more *Frankly*. And not to *Force* me to tell the whole *Truth*, with some *Mortification* to him.

Before I do which, I will set down his *Retraction*, that I may in no ways do him any *Injury*. This you will find in the *Miscellanea* of his *Review* of last *August* 24th Vol. 3. N. 101. Where he speaks of the *Invitation* I had given him for a *Cessation* of ill *Language*, and *Accepts* of it. And, as he says, in a *Method* agreeable to this *Resolution*, he mentions my proposing his making his own *Acknowledgment* for the *Review* of *Feb.* 21. Which he performs thus,

(5.) "I have been *Inform'd*, these *Gentlemen* have been *Prosecuted* for this matter at *Law*, and have upon *Trial* come off from the *Fact*, as worded in the *Review*, of *Personating* the *Justices* of the *Peace*; *Alleging* they sign'd the *Warrant* as *Witnesses* only. And if it be so, and they are *Acquitted* of the *Form*—Then I am to *Acknowledge* my *Information*, which I had directly from the *Prosecutors*, was *Deficient*, as the *Indictment*, in that *Point*, and I am *Content*.

"But if I might *Advise* Mr. *Rehearsal*, it shou'd be to *Drop* a *Case*, in which there will *Appear* so many ill *Steps* taken by these *Gentlemen*, tho' this particular was got over, that it will but serve to *Confirm* those *People*, who *Charge* him with *Endeavouring* by a seeming *Vindication*, to *Blacken* and *Expose* the *Clergy* and *Church* of *England*.

"Tis plain they were *Prosecuted* at *Law* for the very *Fact* I *Charge* them with, That they were *Censur'd* for the *Fact*; And it is *Acknowledg'd* by all to be an *Ill* *Action*, tho' they were not found *Guilty* as *Charg'd*; 'Tis Plain they sign'd the *Press-Warrant*, That there was to be three *Justices* Hands to every *Warrant*; That to this there was but one *Justice* and two *Clergy-Men*, and the poor Man *Hurry'd* away on such an *Imperfect* *Warrant*. 'Tis evident a *Justice's* *Warrant* needs no *Witnesses*; 'Tis evident *Clergy-Men* have no *Business* to Sign *Warrants* to *Press* *Soldiers*—Mr. *Rehearsal*, I'll make an *Acknowledgment*, they were *Clear'd* from the *Forgery* or *Personating* part: But if you have any *Respect* for the *Gentlemen*, let it fall, and call another *Cause*.

(6.) *Country-m.* This looks like a *Defence* than an *Acknowledgment*. It cou'd not be *Deny'd* but that these *Clergy-Men* were *Acquitted* in the *Queens-Bench*. And what were they *Acquitted* of? Was it not of the *Crime* laid against them? Yet he puts an *It* to it, *If that be so*. This shews an *Unwillingness* of *Yielding* to the *Truth*, even when it cannot be *Deny'd*. He says, They were *Acquitted* of the *Form*. What *Form*? What is the meaning of this? Were they *Guilty* of what they were *Accus'd* of *Signing* a *Press-Warrant* as *Justices* of *Peace*? Or this they were *Acquitted*, of what then were they *Guilty*?

He says, 'Tis plain they were *Prosecuted* at *Law* for the very *Fact* I *Charge* them with. But they were *Acquitted* of that very *Fact*, and thereto it is plain that the *Fact* was not *True*, and *Consequently*, that the *Prosecution* was *Malicious*.

He says, They were *Censur'd* for the *Fact*. But he tells not by whom. They were *Acquitted* by the *Court*, by whom then were they *Censur'd*? By the *Whiggs* no doubt, and other *Good Men*!

He says, It was *Acknowledg'd* by *All*, to be an *Ill* *Action*. This is the same *All* again, of *Whiggs* and *Dissenters*.

Then he *Advise*s you to *Quit* the *Cause* for *Shame*. This puts the *Guilt* still upon these *Clergy-Men*. And is this an *Acknowledgment* of his *Mis-Information*? This is standing to it as much as *Possible*.

(7.) *Rehearsal*. He owns he had his *Information* directly from the *Prosecutors*. If he had said no more, this wou'd have been a *Vindication* of himself, except for being *Impos'd* upon by *Ill-Men*. But it seems he has taken his *Recantation* from them too; by *Confessing* no more than he needs must, and giving the *Rest* such *Turns* as to leave the *Accus'd* still *Guilty*, by *Innuendo* at least.

This will *Oblige* me to give a *Detail* of the *Story*, as it is told by the other *Side*.

And then let every one *Judge* where the *Truth* lies, the *Malice*, and the *Contrivance*.

I have *Quoted* the *Review* at large, because the *Story* wou'd not tell well otherwise. And every one has not those two *Reviews* by them, or wou'd not be at the *Pains* to *Consult* them. And without that the *contrary Relation* I have to give of this *Fact* wou'd not *Appear* so *Evident* and *Pleasing* to the *Reader*.

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